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ABSTRACT

Based on the principle that drug abuse is no longer a problem restricted to certain economic, social, educational, or intellectual levels or ethnic groups, this pamphlet relates some examples of on-going community action programs and projects. Essentially, these programs are striving to solve some of the drug related problems in their immediate community, with their activities directed toward prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, law enforcement, and the alleviation of social conditions which spawn drug abuse. Others offer services including referral, counseling, education and information, training, and aid in rehabilitation. Ideas for the types of projects which can be undertaken in several major problem areas are suggested. To exemplify these ideas brief resumes of the goals and accomplishments of selected community organizations and centers interested in drug abuse control are compiled. Also listed are agencies with possible funding sources, a bibliography of books, magazine articles and pamphlets, and audio-visual aids--films, filmstrips, simulation games, and plays. (BL)

SERIES 22, NO. 1

NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR DRUG ABUSE INFORMATION

REPORT SERIES

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COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS

Introduction

The phenomenon of drug abuse--no longer a problem restricted to certain economic, social, education, or intellectual levels or ethnic groups--has become a national problem. The magnitude of the problem and the increasing awareness of it by all members of society have been accompanied by demands for a solution.

While Federal and State governments and many private organizations are supporting massive programs of research, education, law enforcement, and treatment and rehabilitation, more and more they are trying to help communities help themselves. Many individuals and community groups have begun to look at drug abuse as a local problem for which local solutions must be found. As a result, individuals in many localities have organized community action programs. These people are community members who have formed a group or who use existing groups to act on a problem related to drug abuse in their local area.

Community action programs may focus on one or encompass many areas of concern. A citizens' group who petitions government officials for new or improved drug treatment facilities is one example. Parents who form a group whose goal is to persuade school officials to set up a drug education program is another. Many community action programs also provide services. Services may include referral, counseling, education and information, training, treatment, and aid in rehabilitation. There is virtually no limit to the possible forms a community action program can take nor to the goals it can pursue.

Primary areas in which community action programs can realistically expect to produce results include prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, law enforcement, and alleviation of social conditions which can spawn drug abuse. Although the resources of most community action programs are inadequate to support full-scale research projects, such programs can contribute data to on-going projects conducted by others. Community action programs can be an important and valuable source of information on epidemiology, for example.

Again, resources are normally too limited to conduct comprehensive training programs, but community action programs can sponsor training for selected individuals in the community by sending them to seminars held by various colleges and universities or by national or regional service organizations. These individuals can then become valuable resources as trainers within the community. And community action programs can draw upon their internal resources by having professional members of the group conduct training seminars for lay volunteers or for ex-addicts who wish to become involved in the program.

Ideas for the types of projects which can be undertaken in several major program areas follow.

Programs to prevent drug abuse before it begins: Prevention programs most often take the form of providing information and education. Many schools have introduced drug education and information units into their curricula--sometimes as early as the elementary grades. However, information and education programs are not limited to the schools. Community action programs may distribute educational materials such as brochures, pamphlets, fact sheets, newsletters, and posters in response to specific inquiries or as part of a general public information campaign. Or these materials can be made available through drug abuse information racks maintained in libraries, schools, doctors' offices, lobbies of public buildings or any place where they are readily accessible to the general public.

Many community action groups maintain a "hotline" telephone answering service which permits parents, young people, or drug users to call at any time around the clock with specific questions or problems.

Films; oral presentations by qualified persons (which can include ex-addicts); newsletters; material placed in local newspapers, or on radio, or television; and town meetings are additional methods by which information can be disseminated.

Programs to treat and rehabilitate drug users: Very few community action programs provide direct treatment services. More often these programs provide the impetus which leads to the establishment of treatment programs. This impetus can be in the form of fund raising campaigns to support or establish treatment facilities or of petitioning a government agency to create and fund a treatment facility. Some community action groups do sponsor encounter programs and/or drug crisis clinics. These clinics take care of immediate, emergency drug reactions and are usually headed by medical professionals and staffed by volunteers.

Nearly every community action program conducts an active referral program. Referrals are usually made over a "hotline", through personal counseling, or by publishing a comprehensive directory listing all of the drug treatment and rehabilitation facilities within a reasonable distance.

Community action programs make valuable use of volunteer workers. Volunteers can include professionals in any field, including medicine, education, or law enforcement; concerned citizens; or ex-addicts. Because a wide variety of personal and professional expertise is usually represented within a community action program, the group can provide a great deal of assistance to an individual trying to regain a productive role in society. Health care, job training, psychiatric counseling, legal aid and other necessary social services are normally available through the contacts provided by a community action program.

Programs to alleviate social conditions conducive to drug abuse: Most professionals agree that social conditions can lead to drug abuse. Poverty, unemployment, boredom, peer group pressures, ghetto life, and absence of positive parental guidance are known to contribute to the incidence of drug usage. Community action programs aimed at alleviating these underlying social conditions could include urban education projects, job training or refresher courses, economic assistance, or family counseling.

Providing young people in the community with alternatives to drug use is a very effective approach. Programs to find summer or after school work for teenagers seeking employment or to involve young people in community projects such as an "operation cleanup" of neighborhood parks or alleys have been conducted by some community action groups.

A common teenage complaint is "not having anything to do." Providing a place where young people can get together to dance, listen to music or simply to "rap" can perform a very useful service. A youth center gives the teenagers something to do with their time in a supervised environment and is a good place to establish rapport with youngsters who may be having problems associated with drugs. A teenage social center is also a prime outlet through which to dispense drug abuse information materials.

As stated previously, community action programs can focus on many areas of concern and provide services of a varied nature. The following are a few examples of on-going programs which were selected from the computerized drug abuse program file maintained by the Clearinghouse.

The Mid-Iowa Center for Drug Education and Research, Inc. The Mid-Iowa Center for Drug Education and Research, Inc., is a community group that was formed in response to the drug-related problems of students at Iowa State University and in the public schools of Ames and Central Iowa. The Center provides drug and drug abuse literature, a speakers bureau, a 24-hour hotline telephone service, individual and group counseling, referral services and a facility in which an informal atmosphere for the discussion of problems, including drugs, exists.

The Center's staff is largely volunteer and consists of psychologists, physicians and drug-experienced college-age counselors. The Center uses members of the drug sub-culture to relate to those living in an environment where drug use is common.

The Center draws upon existing community resources as much as possible and helps coordinate other drug abuse efforts in the community.

La Junta Community Task Force for Drug Abuse Education. The purpose of the La Junta (Colorado) Task Force is to give the community an awareness of the problems involved in drug use and abuse. The Task Force has set three goals for itself: (1) to set up block meetings to give the people an opportunity to establish a means of communication within the family itself as exhibited by one block meeting a week over a period of three months, beginning in January 1972. Block meetings are held at the homes of private citizens who extend their hospitality to about 10 to 20 neighbors and provide them an opportunity to discuss drug-related problems and questions; (2) to obtain a better working relationship with community groups concerned with drug-related problems; (3) to involve young people in the work of the La Junta Drug Task Force by having at least one student participate in every block meeting.

The La Junta Community Task Force is supplemented by a task force of students in the community high school who call their group SIN (Students Involved Now). The students are planning a retreat weekend and are in the process of making a filmstrip depicting the problems of and alternatives to drug abuse.

Also in the schools, the adult task force conducted a teacher inservice training program which was monitored, surveyed, and evaluated by the Human Factors Research Laboratory of the Colorado State University.

The La Junta community action group consists of school personnel, businessmen, nurses, parents, a physician, a social worker and a Catholic priest. It is headed by the school nurse.

Capitol Region Drug Information Center. The Capitol Region Drug Information Center was formed at Hartford, Connecticut, to provide a comprehensive, coordinated effort by the 29 towns of the Capitol Region to combat drug abuse. Through contact people in each of the communities who serve as coordinators between the individual town and the drug Center, the Center maintains strong ties at the community level while serving a total population of 700,000.

The Center provides coordination, planning, public information, youth services, a speakers bureau, referral, and consultation to community groups and the media, as well as direct counseling services to the public with its staff of three counselors.

The Center also maintains an extensive reference library which includes audiovisuals as well as publications. The Center has held seminars, teachers training courses, and film/publication evaluations. In cooperation with the University of Hartford, the Institute of Living, and the

Mental Health Department, it has offered courses on counseling, continuity of care, etc. The Center has also offered seminars on company premises to help businesses formulate policies and procedures concerning drug abusers.

The Center, which is operated by the Greater Hartford Council on Alcoholism and sponsored by the Council Region of Governments, sees its role as that of coordinator of existing services and catalyst for community actions.

Narcotic Addiction Rehabilitation Coordinating Organization (NARCO). NARCO is a citizens'organization in Detroit, Michigan, established in 1969 as a nonprofit organization. It is funded by the United Foundation of Detroit.

NARCO currently has more than 2,000 members, including psychiatrists, judges, lawyers, law enforcement officials, physicians, pharmacists, educators, businessmen, labor officials and other interested citizens. The five goals of NARCO are education, treatment, research, reevaluation of drug laws, and control of illicit drug traffic. NARCO serves the entire state of Michigan.

As part of its education program, NARCO provides consultative services to Wayne State University, community colleges, public school systems, and individual schools. The NARCO speakers bureau includes judges, physicians, pharmacologists, nurses, lawyers, police officers and former drug dependent persons. The program maintains a distribution center for drug abuse literature, but does not generate its own educational materials.

NARCO's goal regarding treatment facilities is to cooperate with other agencies to stimulate the development of drug abuse treatment programs. As one direct result of its petitioning campaign, NARCO was responsible for the conversion of a little-used hospital into a State owned and operated comprehensive treatment facility for drug users.

NARCO's research and law reevaluation functions consist of encouraging investigation of the medical, psychological and social aspects of drug abuse and examination and reform of the current laws.

Foundation on Abuse of Drugs. The Foundation on Abuse of Drugs is a nonprofit corporation founded in Fargo, North Dakota, in 1970, to support drug abuse prevention and treatment programs carried on by other groups in the Fargo-Moorhead area. The Foundation is supported entirely by contributions.

The Foundation supports the training of drug and narcotic enforcement agents, provides educational materials on drug abuse to residents of the two-city community, collects drug abuse statistics to assist in coordinating

community drug action programs, and solicits funds to carry out Foundation objectives.

The Foundation operates primarily by giving grants to groups which provide drug prevention and treatment services. A grant was provided to college and high school young people for a four-day "Crusade Against Drugs." The program consisted of presentations by former drug addicts in colleges and high schools.

The Fargo group also provides alcohol and drug posters for police department educational programs.

Blot Out Lethal Drugs (BOLD). BOLD is a citizens' organization in Washington, D.C., whose goals are to encourage citizen support of drug abuse prevention programs and to form coalitions of diverse population groups to combat drug abuse. BOLD's community education program uses a "town meeting" approach. Programs are held in community theaters, churches, private homes, Constitution Hall and other public facilities to encourage D. C. residents to support drug abuse education and treatment programs. The BOLD program is staffed by volunteers, including some ex-addicts. BOLD disseminates drug abuse education materials produced by other organizations and maintains a speakers bureau.

Corpus Christi Drug Abuse Council. The Corpus Christi (Texas) Drug Abuse Council is a Federally supported community action group that provides preventive education, counseling, rehabilitation, NARA aftercare, and 24-hour crisis services in response to drug abuse problems.

The staff consists of a nucleus of 10 paid professionals and approximately 100 volunteers. The volunteers, many of whom are ex-addicts, also include housewives, parents, teachers and other concerned citizens. These volunteers serve as counselors, crisis team members, instructors and speakers. As often as can be arranged, the volunteers and paid staff hold six-hour drug seminars for young people, the police, private employers, business administrators and civic organizations.

The Council is one of the few community action programs which provides direct treatment services. The Council recently opened a methadone clinic which sees some 180 to 200 addicts daily. A walk-in crisis clinic manned by volunteers and professional staff and a facility for over-night care of addicts or others on drugs who need care are also provided by the Council. In addition, the Council plans to open a store-front center in a Mexican-American neighborhood in the near future.

The staff of the center supplements its treatment program through contractual arrangements with medical doctors and licensed psychologists. Activities include counseling of individuals, families, and groups at the Council's Child Study Center with followup professional care, a 24-hour hotline

telephone service, participation in the Federal narcotic addict after-care program at the local community mental health center, and consultation and training services for other community groups.

The Council disseminates drug abuse literature and a brochure that describes the drug abuse council.

Sunshine Project. The Sunshine Project of Scarsdale, New York, is a youth counseling project operated by young people between the ages of 14 and 22. The project operates in conjunction with the social work services department of the YM-YWCA of Mid-Westchester.

The young volunteers are trained by the Sunshine staff and by the social work staff of the YM-YWCA. The volunteers operate a phone service for persons with problems, including those related to drugs; a walk-in clinic at the YM-YWCA building; and has organized teenage "RAP" (Real Alternatives Project) groups to aid in solving personal problems. The clinic is staffed by volunteer psychiatrists and social workers as well as by the young people.

The Sunshine project also provides draft counseling, and sponsors an artists' co-op, poetry and drama groups, and a referral service for all types of personal problems, including drugs.

The group disseminates drug abuse information by means of radio programs, press releases, and a speakers bureau whose services are available to school groups, senior citizen organizations and other civic and community groups. A newsletter, "The Bridge," is published to keep the area informed about drugs and community activity.

A local high school provides office space for the Sunshine Project.

Community Action Program Package. WWDC Radio, Washington, D. C.
The WWDC, in an effort to provide local civic and community organizations with comprehensive resources by which they could enter the fight against drug abuse, brought together information on drug education, existing local agencies, methods of raising funds and obtaining publicity, etc. in one book entitled, "The Community Action Program Package." In addition to acting as a clearinghouse for programs concerned with drug abuse, the station promoted a system of approximately 20 neighborhood referral houses which operated out of area recreation centers staffed by volunteers, and which referred people needing help at the street or neighborhood level to agencies and groups offering that help.

Today, two years later, the referral function has been absorbed by other community organizations but the CAPP manual, now in its third edition, is a continuously updated directory of those services and organizations active in the drug abuse field. The manual tells at a glance whether a particular organization

offers a hotline, emergency treatment, detoxification, methadone maintenance, group therapy, family therapy, individual therapy, job rehabilitation; whether it has live-in or drop-in facilities; whether it is for adults or youth; and if it has a speakers bureau.

CODAC (Community Organization for Drug Abuse Control). CODAC of Phoenix, Arizona, is an umbrella agency of more than 45 organizations devoted to fighting drug abuse. Formed in 1969 by the Maricopa County Medical Society as a private, non-profit organization, its purposes are (1) to eliminate duplication and fragmentation of efforts among agencies involved in drug abuse activities, (2) to develop and maintain comprehensive drug abuse services, including education, contact and referral services, treatment and rehabilitation, and (3) to provide a united front in seeking funds for these purposes. Included among the many CODAC agencies are "Creative Living Foundation," an out-patient treatment center designed to meet the needs of drug abusers, their families and friends, with specific attention being paid to their becoming productive non-drug dependent and emotionally stable members of society; "Teen Involvement" (formerly Dope Stop), a two phase program which mobilizes high school student volunteers to serve as Teen Counselors to speak to children in the elementary grades about drug abuse and alternatives and encourage them to make firm commitments not to use drugs before they are exposed to them. The second phase of this program is a Speakers Bureau which draws upon all CODAC affiliated agencies to provide speakers, panels and films for interested community groups; "Terros Contact and Referral Center" where with the consent of the police department non-judgmental, confidential emergency aid is provided by a paraprofessional staff trained in emergency procedures and evaluating clients for further referral; Terros also maintains a free-clinic staffed by a registered nurse and volunteer physicians who provide medical treatment of drug problems in addition to treatment of problems such as abscesses, hepatitis, etc.; "Parents Anonymous" a discussion group for parents with drug abuse problems in the family; "Valle Del Sol Narcotic Prevention Project" which is an intercity predominantly Mexican-American program almost exclusively structured to work in rehabilitating the hard-core heroin addict; and "Abibifo Korye Kuw" (United Peoples Organization) located in a predominantly black community which deals with treatment of emergency crises, drug and alcohol related medical problems, information services on drugs and limited detoxification and screening and referrals to other CODAC agencies; and the "Arizona Family" which is a long-term residential rehabilitation program.

There are many other programs, hospitals, hotlines, etc. within CODAC whose representatives hold regularly scheduled meetings to evaluate progress being made, to identify new problems, etc. The results of the meetings are made available to all interested persons through newsletters and bulletins.

As can be seen, the composition and programs of community action groups vary rather widely. As varied as the composition and specific purposes

of community action programs are the means used to support them financially.

Many are entirely self-sufficient, depending on local, voluntary contributions; others receive Federal or State funds; some are supported by National, regional or local service or civic organizations such as the YW-YMCA, the Jaycees, religious organizations, colleges and universities, and various foundations.

The Clearinghouse does not provide financial support to community action or to other programs. Other Federal agencies may, however. Agencies with possible funding for community action programs are:

(1) Division of Narcotic Addiction and Drug Abuse
National Institute of Mental Health
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20852

(2) Division of Program Resources
Office of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, Southwest
Washington, D. C. 20202

(3) Youth Development and Delinquency Prevention Administration
Social and Rehabilitation Service
4th and C Streets, Southwest
Washington, D. C. 20024

(4) Law Enforcement Assistance Administration
Department of Justice
633 Indiana Avenue, Northwest
Washington, D. C. 20530

(5) Office of Community Development
Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 - 7th Street, Southwest
Washington, D. C. 20410

(6) Metropolitan Planning and Development
Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 - 7th Street, Southwest
Washington, D. C. 20410

(7) Office of Health Affairs
Office of Economic Opportunity
1200 - 19th Street, Northwest
Washington, D. C. 20506

Detailed information on funding for community action and other programs is contained in the Clearinghouse publication, Report Series, No. 7. Copies

of this publication are available by writing to: National Clearinghouse for Drug Abuse Information, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

Community action programs have demonstrated that they can play an important role in combatting the drug abuse problem. Many resources have been developed by concerned individuals, organizations, and governments to aid them in their effort. These resources are cited on the following pages and include references to manuals, guidelines, or program models; audio-visuals; and other materials.

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AUDIO-VISUALS

Films

Anything for Kicks -- 11 min., color, 16 mm (1969)

Description: A teenage couple recall their experiences with marihuana and heroin
Available from: National Audiovisual Center
National Archives and Records Service
General Services Administration
Washington, D. C. 20409
Rental: $7.50; Purchase: $44.75

The Community as the Doctor -- 29-1/2 min., color, 16 mm (1971)

Description: What a town of 22,000 did about their drug problem
Available from: Dick Ham Productions
459 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, California 94301
Rental: $20.00; Purchase: $345.00

The Community in Quest -- 30 min., color, 16 mm (1971)

Description: Analyzes a community trying to solve its problems using the role-playing technique
Available from: National Audiovisual Center
National Archives and Records Service
General Services Administration
Washington, D. C. 20409
Rental: $12.50; Purhcase: $78.50

Crisis Intervention by Telephone -- 30 min., color, 16 mm (1971)

Description: A discussion by psychologists and national hotline representatives on how to deal with "crisis" telephone calls
Available from: Jay Hathaway Productions
7121 Melrose Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90046
Rental: $50.00; Purchase: $300.00

Drug Abuse: A Call to Action -- 27 min., color, 16 mm (1969)

Description: How one community has dealt with its drug situation
Available from: Association Instruction Materials
600 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022
Rental: $70.00/day; Purchase: $300.00

Drug Abuse: One Town's Answer -- 23 min., color, 16 mm·(1970)

Description: Describes the formation and purpose of Awareness House in Fort Bragg, California.
Available from: AIMS Instructional Media Services
Post Office Box 1010
Hollywood, California 90028
Rental: $30.00; Purchase: $275.00

Drugs: The Children are Choosing--What Some Communities are Doing -- 30 min., color, 16 mm (1969)

Description: A Concise technical introduction to school-community drug education programming
Available from: University of California
Extension Media Center
2223 Fulton Street
Berkeley, California 94720
Rental: Unknown; Purchase: Unknown

Drugs: The Children are Choosing--What Can We Do? -- 30 min., color, 16 mm (1969)

Description: Three approaches to open communication between adults and the young--school, psychiatry, encounter group
Available from: University of California
Extension Media Center
2223 Fulton Street
Berkeley, California 94720
Rental: Unknown; Purchase: Unknown

Help -- 25-1/2 min., color, 16 mm (1970)

Description: Describes the problems that arise at a hotline crisis center in Philadelphia
Available from: Concept Films
Suite 312
1155 15th Street, Northwest
Washington, D. C. 20005
Purchase only: $265.00

It Takes A Lot of Help -- 27 min., color, 16 mm (1970)

Description: An exploration of the avenues of approach to community action
Available from: Modern Talking Picture Service, Inc.
1212 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
Rental: Free; Purchase: $65.00

Three -- 52 min., black/white, 16 mm (1967)

Description: Relates the individual experiences of three (3) heroin addicts who are in a rehabilitation program
Available from: Benchmark Films
145 Scarborough Road
Briarcliff Manor, New York 10501
Rental: $30.00; Purchase: $310.00

Trip to Nowhere -- 53 min., color (1970)

Description: An investigation into why young people use drugs; also reports on CODAC (Community Organization for Drug Abuse Control), Phoenix, Arizona
Available from: NBC Educational Enterprises
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10020
Rental: Unknown; Purchase: $500.00

Weed -- 24 min., color, 16 mm (1971)

Description: Discusses the legal, historic, and sociological aspects of marihuana
Available from: Encyclopedia Britannica Education Corp.
425 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Rental: $16.00/3 days; Purchase: $296.00

Filmstrip

The Drug Threat: Your Community's Response
Part I, 14 min., color
Part II, 16 min., color (1970)
Descriptions: Part I - young people discuss the way parents refuse to admit that a drug problem exists and why drug subcultures form in certain communities
Part II - discusses the key organizing factors in a community drug program
Available from: Guidance Associates
Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc.
Pleasantville, New York 10570
Purchase only: $35.00 with records; $39.00 with cassettes

Other Resources

A Community at the Crossroads -- A role-playing simulation package

Description: A 2 to 5 hour game-simulation of a community's response to the problem of drug enforcement and rehabilitation

Available from: Simulation Program
National Institute of Mental Health
Box 2305
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Cost: $13.75

How Was the Trip -- A Play

Description: A one-act play production guide, concerned with drug abuse. Suggestions for group discussions which increase community awareness and action are included.

Available from: PLAY, NIMH
Post Office Box 1701
Washington, D. C. 20013

Cost: Single courtesy copies available upon request

The National Clearinghouse for Drug Abuse Information, operated by the National Institute of Mental Health on behalf of the Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention and the Federal agencies engaged in drug abuse education programs, is the focal point for Federal information on drug abuse. The Clearinghouse distributes publications and refers specialized and technical inquiries to Federal, State, local, and private information resources. Inquiries should be directed to the National Clearinghouse for Drug Abuse Information, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20852.